IDENTITY POLITICS: EUROSCEPTISISM AND RISE OF POPULISM IN EASTERN EUROPE

Poland & Hungary

Recommended video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_XyhK42fSeQ
Structure

• Central and Eastern Europe dilemma of XXI century.
• Champions of transition and democratic backsliding.
• Breaking points of European integration.
• Fukuyama.... again?
• Thirty years after the collapse of Iron Curtain. Conclusion.
Central and Eastern Europe dilemma of XXI century
Map of EU, 2014

Statistics

Poland

• Population: 38.4 mln
• Life expectancy: 77.9 years
  • male: 74.1 years
  • female: 82 years (2018 est.)
• Population growth rate -0.16% (2018 est.)
• Religion: Catholic 87.2% (includes Roman Catholic 86.9% and Greek Catholic, Armenian Catholic, and Byzantine-Slavic Catholic .3%), Orthodox 1.3%
• GDP: $1.126 trillion (2017 est.)
• GDP per capita around $29,600 (2017 est.)

Hungary

• Population: 9.8 mln
• Life expectancy: 76.3 years
  • male: 72.6 years
  • female: 80.2 years (2018 est.)
• Population growth rate -0.26% (2018 est.)
• Ethnic groups: 98% Hungarians
• GDP: $289.6 billion (2017 est.)
• GDP per capita $25,400 (2017 est.)
Facing the same problems

- EU pressure
- Socialist past
- Migration and growth the financial debt
- Infrastructural issues and post-industrial global processes
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Champions of transition and democratic backsliding?
The weak points of European integration

Economic crises 2008-2009

• Hungary inherited large governmental dept after 1990 (Poland was forgiven) But blaming the communists only goes so far since Hungary successfully reduced its debt from a peak of 90% of GDP in 1993 to 52% in 2001 - it has since gone back up to 66%.
The weak points of European integration
The weak points of European integration

• European migrant crisis and EU response
• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7YAOUzq4gB8
The weak points of European integration:

“Shared memory” work

There were over 40,000 camps and ghettos during the Holocaust.

49% of Millennials cannot name a single one.

Source: http://www.claimscon.org/study/
PM Orban “Illiberal democracy”

Poland in search of the new path
• The End of History and the Last Man, 1992.
• Identity: The Demand for Dignity and the Politics of Resentment, 2018.
Thirty years after the collapse of Iron Curtain. Conclusion.